

Songwriters'
Association
of Washington

SAW E-Notes



August 2008



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SAW NEWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

MASC DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 15th!!!

We have been experiencing some problems with our online entry process with certain browsers, which we believe have now been taken care of. We apologize for the glitches and have extended the deadline, giving you another month to get your entries in--this applies to Sonicbids and mail-in entries also. Please let us know ASAP if you experience ANY problems with the online entry process by emailing masc@saw.org. And if your adrenalin was already flowing with the anticipated August 15 deadline, that's a good thing—get those entries in as early as possible to help us meet our shortened deadline! And you may just finish writing your masterpiece in time for the **September 15 deadline**....

There will never be a better time than now to polish up those new songs, old songs, funny songs, sad songs, any songs you would like our judges to hear! And remember that we have some special prizes for our 25th Anniversary MASC including \$100 for the top song in each category.

Thank you for supporting SAW and the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest. We look forward to hearing YOUR songs!

Siobhan Quinn
MASC Director



SAW EVENTS: At a Glance

Here is a quick list of upcoming SAW events. Please check the website, www.saw.org, for detailed and up-to-date information.

AUGUST 2008

- 8/14 (Thurs)—SAW Concert at the Athenaeum (*see article below!*)
- 8/15 (Fri)—SAW's 25th MID-ATLANTIC SONG CONTEST DEADLINE (EXTENDED TO 9/15!!)**
- 8/18 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 8/21 (Thurs)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 8/22 (Fri)—SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
- 8/23 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters Exchange
- 8/25 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 8/26 (Tues)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 8/28 (Thurs)—SAW New New Deal Café Open Mike (still NEW!)**
- 8/29 (Fri)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night - Special Event
- 8/30 (Sat)—SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 9/1 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 9/5 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
- 9/8 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 9/11 (Thurs)—SAW Concert at the Athenaeum
- 9/12 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
- 9/13 (Sat)—Open Mike at the Lab
- 9/15 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 9/15 (Mon)—SAW's 25th MID-ATLANTIC SONG CONTEST FINAL DEADLINE**
- 9/18 (Thurs)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 9/19 (Fri)—SAW Oneness Showcase (*back from summer hiatus—see article below*)
- 9/21 (Sun)—SAW Song Circle (*back from summer hiatus—see article below*)
- 9/22 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 9/23 (Tues)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 9/25 (Thurs)—SAW New New Deal Café Open Mike
- 9/26 (Fri)—SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
- 9/27 (Sat)—SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike
- 9/27 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters Exchange

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the October 11 workshop: PRESS KITS - Promoting yourself "accurately and awesomely" hosted by Ruthie Logsdon. More info on this to come in next month's newsletter, and check our website later this month for a listing of the exciting workshops coming this fall and winter.



SAW EVENTS: Updates & More

Below are some highlights of SAW shows that will be taking place in the very near future.... why sit home wondering why you're bored when you can be out listening to, and/or playing, some of the finest original music around... and meeting and supporting your fellow songwriters? Go to the SAW website www.saw.org for more information and dates.

BREWER'S ALLEY: "We make Monday's better than a lot of Saturdays"

Brit bluesman Rod Deacey teams up with Ron Goad to organize wonderful entertainment each Monday. Take the elevator to the 2nd floor to the great music room.

Most evenings consist of a half hour of piano music, followed by a song by Rod & Ron; then several performers play three songs apiece. Poet John Holly recites a few original poems, then at 9:00 a featured performer plays an extended set, to be followed by more three-song performers, ending with a traditional musical nightcap from Rod & Ron. Many of the performers each Monday are first-rate, and many of them are on tour. Some upcoming featured performers:

Aug 11—Genevieve & Susan Souza

Aug 18—Alex Culbreth & Alexander Gunn

Aug 25—Karyn Oliver

Sept 8—Mark McKay

Sept 22—Bob Sima

Others include Kathy Graves, Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus (of Austin), and Andrew McKnight.

THE ATHENAEUM: Featuring Furnace Mountain

Thursday, August 14 - 7PM

201 Prince St. (Corner of Prince and Lee) Alexandria VA 22314 (703-548-0035)

Admission \$10 at the door or pre-pay online www.nvfaa.org.



Furnace Mountain consists of Dave VanDeventer on Fiddle and Vocals, Morgan Morrison on Bouzouki and Vocals, and Aimee Curl on Bass and Vocals, and includes transient members Danny Knicely on Mandolin, Zach Lester or Bodhran, and John Flower on Washtub. The band has graced stages near and far, from the Yangtze River in China to the banks of the Shenandoah River, where they host the famous Watermelon Park Fest each year. The music of Furnace Mountain is at times lively and raucous, with spirited fiddle melodies weaving in and around the powerful rhythms of the bass and bouzouki. It is at other times poignant and poetic, with sublime vocal harmonies beautifully interpreting some of the oldest songs ever written. This is a show not to be missed! www.furnancemountain.com

BANGKOK BLUES/SAW MUSIC NIGHTS: 3rd Thursdays & 4th Tuesdays 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.

--plus some special events--

BangkokBlues.com

926 Broad Street (route 7)

Falls Church, VA 22046

Bangkok Blues—Thurs Aug 21:

The Swarthmore Drive Song Circle & Social Club, led by Suzanne Ives & Michael Dunkley (BumpKinPie.com), Presents "Pretty Small Opry," a tribute to classic country music: BumpKin Pie, Dana Austin, Deeme Katson, Dulcie Taylor, Jelly Roll Mortals, JP McDermott and One Horse Town performing the legendary songs of Emmylou Harris, George Jones, Jim Reeves, Johnny cash, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Ray Charles, Roger Miller, Skeeter Davis, Tammy Wynette, and more!!

Bangkok Blues—Tuesday Aug 26:

Doug "Bugs" Sedgwick, Dana Austin, Jerry Bresee, Grace Under Pressure, Kamau, Never Too Late, Julie Kehrl & Keith Thorne

Bangkok Blues Special Event—August 29!

Larry Mediate & the Zen Consultants 7:00-9:30 p.m.—A special band has been assembled for this show, and it includes DaVinci's Notebook founder Bernie Muller-Thym, Jerry Bresee, and Tony Donnelly, who will all take turns playing bass and guitar; Ron Goad on the drum set. This ensemble has worked up some rich four- and five-part harmonies as SAW's new VP, Larry Mediate, will be in the spotlight!

SAW SONG XCHANGE

Fourth Saturday of each month

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the Lab at Convergence, 1819 Crestwood Drive, Alexandria VA

(Take the Shirlington exit off of I-395 and follow the signs to Quaker Lane, then take the second left on Crestwood Drive. The Lab at Convergence is the first building on the left)

Join us on Saturday, August 23, when our guest artist will be the illustrious *Andrew McKnight*. "Equal parts Robert Frost, William Least Heat-Moon and Jeff Foxworthy," Drew is a killer songwriter, singer, guitarist, and nationally touring performer. Trained as an environmental engineer, he chucked it all twelve years ago to be a song-and-story-slinging road warrior, emphasizing community, heritage, and common ground. He's used the internet and indy music distribution to build a loyal following across the country. Drew has 5 CDs of original music out, mostly self-produced. 2005's "Beyond Borders" was an Americana Album of the Year Finalist in the Independent Music Awards, and his song "Good Things Matter" was a winner of the Great American Song Contest (Acoustic/Folk category). His newest CD is this year's "Something Worth Standing For." Many songs from it are featured on the Kennedy Center's archive of his performance there five months ago (<http://tinyurl.com/5hdwh6>).

Some quotes: "With a voice reminiscent of Don McLean, McKnight traverses from old-time Appalachian tunes to contemporary folk and blues, all backed up by his dead-on guitar playing" ~The Boston Globe

"Inventiveness and imagination are always at work in Andrew's story songs. So is his passion for nature, his knowledge of history and that impish, energetic wit. One of the finest modern folk guitarists around..."~Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse, Dallas TX

Visit Drew's website (www.andrewmcknight.net) for more, and come on the 23rd to hear how he does it!

The SAW Song Xchange is a monthly songwriting workshop series designed to allow participants to bring a song-in-progress to share with the group for constructive criticism. Songwriters can either play their songs live (a piano is available, and there are always guitars around), or bring a recording to play on a boom box. Participants are encouraged to bring approximately 10 lyric sheets to distribute. Even if you get substantial co-writer-quality input on your song from the group, the copyright remains exclusively yours. Each month a different guest artist hosts the first hour of the Xchange. The guest can lead a discussion about the songwriting process, offer a

lesson, or actually write a song on the spot. Guest artists usually play three or four songs during their portion of the Xchange, and then help critique your songs-in-progress. There is no fee, but we pass a tip jar around for the guest artist. The coordinators for the Xchange are Dan Grove and Paige Powell. Email: songxchange@comcast.net. Try it, you'll like it!

RED ROCKS ADIEU!

After hosting 60 shows there on the last Saturday of each month, Ron Goad has decided to suspend the monthly showcases at Red Rocks, and wishes to thank owners Bob & Donna Evans (whom he has known since he taught at Robinson Secondary School, where they were students) for their continued support of SAW since 2003. There have been many magical moments at these shows, which have included amateurs, professionals, locals, and world-travelers. Ron is currently focusing on several other projects, but may someday resume the showcases and/or set up some special events at Red Rocks. Thanks again, Bob, Donna and Red Rocks, for all those wonderful shows.

SAW/ONENESS SCHOOL SONGWRITER SHOWCASE—Back From Hiatus With a Bang!!

Friday, September 19, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6701 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Cost: Suggested donation of \$10; Contact: Joel Pomerantz, pomeranj@hotmail.com

Located at the Oneness School at the rear of St. John's Episcopal Church (West Street Side).

ilyAIMY's Rob Hinkal, in conjunction with Joel Pomerantz, has organized this show, which promises to be an amazing night of music. The lineup:

Dave Perolman – www.myspace.com/djperolman

A self taught singer/songwriter for over 10 years who has lived all over the country. One of the rare performers who mixes his music with genuine humble charm, sentimentality and genuine Love pour out of his powerful, gravelly voice.

Flo Anito - www.myspace.com/floanito

Sultry and quirky, Flo Anito delivers her music with grace and charisma. Classically trained, the husky-voiced Flo Anito began her career as a singer/songwriter career at age 16 when she got her hands on her first guitar. Already rewarded for her musicality with All-State recognition and roles in Summer-stock theatre, songwriting came naturally to this young talent who has quickly proven herself a prolific writer of thought provoking alternative folk/pop songs.

Cletus Kennelly - <http://www.cletuskennelly.com/>

"Cletus Kennelly wields a mean 12-string acoustic and writes a moving tune...the earnest and true kind." (*Eric Brace, Washington Post*) "What makes Cletus great is Cletus. He has a way of connecting to the audience directly, and the rich quality of his voice is so effective, he doesn't need a band behind him." (*Ray Ruskin, Kensington Coffee House Concert Series*) "Cletus Kennelly is able to pan for nuggets of lyrical gold." (*Chris Slattery, Gazette Newspapers*)

John Thayer / nomad – www.myspace.com/radicalnomad

Between loops and lyrics, beat-boxing and intricate guitar - the unique songwriting style of NOMAD pours forth into a room and leaves you optimistic and changed.

Least Common Denominator - <http://www.myspace.com/leastcommondenominator>

Least Common Denominator is proof-positive that you don't need lyrics for a powerful song. Shifting rhythms and almost frightening technical prowess are thrown forward in a thousand unconventional permutations as LCD rips apart musical preconceptions. No matter where you think the song is about to go, you'll be surprised as it ducks your expectations.

ilyAIMY – www.ilyaimy.com

"A bone-rattling acoustic act... with driving lyrical force, then male/female harmonies that lock in, lift, drop and pull ... And then they slow it down and rip you open."

- Jake Stephens, *On Tap Magazine*

SONG CIRCLES START UP AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!!!—Sunday, September 21, 2008 2-6? p.m. @ Jim Clark's home

Jim Clark: 2910 Swanee Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031 (703) 272-7676

Jim Johnson: 6424 Wainfleet Ct., Springfield, VA (703) 913-7408

Andrew Coupe: 14 Middlebridge Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20906 (301) 871-6305

Light refreshments are provided. Bring your instrument and songs to share. Bringing food/beverage is always appreciated, but not mandatory! This event is held monthly and the location rotates between the homes of Jim Johnson in Springfield, VA and Jim Clark in Vienna, VA, and Andrew Coupe in Silver Spring, MD.

There is a Yahoo! list for the Song Circle, which is used primarily for announcements. Members can either add their name to the list by sending e-mail to SAWSongCircle-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or remove their name from the list by sending e-mail to SAWSongCircle-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.



OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

SAW Members: send your news for inclusion in this section to Aisha at sawnotes@saw.org. Must be submitted on a MONTHLY BASIS.

JONI MITCHELL TRIBUTE AT STRATHMORE FEATURING LOTS OF LOCAL ICONS!

On August 14, 2008 at 7:30 pm Strathmore Hall presents **A TRIBUTE TO JONI MITCHELL** in the Music Center at Strathmore. This will be the 5th Strathmore tribute show produced by Bandhouse Gigs, showcasing an amazing array of D.C. based talent to honor an esteemed musical artist. Almost 50 area performers will be participating in the tribute, including popular veterans like Mary Ann Redmond, Jon Carroll, Naked Blue, and John Jennings; respected artists such as Carey Creed, Chaise Lounge, Esther Haynes, Deeme Katson, Cal Everett, One Horse Town, Diane Rosenthal, and Cairo Fred; and electrifying new talents Luke Brindley, Laura Burhenn, LEA, and Margot MacDonald. Other musicians performing in the show include current Eagles guitarist Steuart Smith (who recorded with Joni Mitchell on 'Turbulent Indigo'), drummers Timm Biery and Andy Hamburger, bassists Scott Ambush (Spyro Gyra) & Scott Giambusso, guitarists Dan Hovey and Keith Grimes (Eva Cassidy), saxophonists Al Williams & Wayne Sulc, conguero Cesar Vanegas, and keyboardists Bill Starks, John Hurd, and Daniel Brindley.

The tribute concerts have evolved into a popular annual event that serves to showcase the diverse and richly talented music scene in the D.C. area. Strathmore, under the guidance of artistic director Shelley Brown, has collaborated with Bandhouse Gigs to put together these unique and inspiring shows that cap off each Summer Concert Series. Tickets are going fast! www.strathmore.org

THE PIANO GUY AT THE SMITHSONIAN

On September 6th, the Smithsonian will present musician Scott Houston. He bills himself as The Piano Guy and has a series on PBS. He teaches raw beginners how to play piano by emphasizing chords with the left hand and melody with the right, plus embellishments. The cost is

\$65 for Smithsonian Associate members/\$85 for non-members.

<http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/reserve.aspx?performanceNumber=200854>



MEMBER NOTES

This section is open to any type of music announcement SAW members would like to make. Just send your message to sawnotes@saw.org ANY TIME before the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

SAW would like to congratulate members **Luke Brindley, Lisa Taylor and Eric Weinberg**, who are Southeast Regional Round Finalists in the Newsong Contest. They will compete at Eddie's Attic in Decatur, GA on Sunday, August 24 at 8 pm to see who will represent the region and go on to compete for a performance slot on the internationally-broadcast Mountain Stage radio show. Best of luck to them all! For details, visit <http://www.newsong-music.com>

Adam Swink is Youth Finalist in Mountain Stage NewSong Contest

Adam Swink has been selected as a finalist in the Mountain Stage NewSong Contest in the "Youth" Category. He will be a showcase performer in Atlanta on August 25th. Adam recently released his second EP, "Seasonal Delivery," and is working on his next album. Adam is a rising senior at James Madison High School in Vienna. For more on Adam Swink go to www.myspace.com/adamswink



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ads are charged PER WORD. They are **FREE TO SAW MEMBERS** and \$0.25/word for non-members. Please send your classified ad to sawnotes@saw.org for inclusion in the next e-newsletter. **Classifieds MUST be submitted on a monthly basis for inclusion AND WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO RUN TWO MONTHS IN A ROW. If you have a print-ready ad, send it right away to make sure you are in the very next newsletter. It is your responsibility to resend the ad each month, for as long as you need it.**

No Classifieds submitted for August 2008.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SAW SERVES

SAW Serves, SAW's volunteer bureau, would like to invite you to sign up for volunteer performance opportunities, or let us know of any charities/events seeking performers. Send an email to president@saw.org.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (DC)

Benefit concert/performance opportunities in the atrium or at many of the different outpatient centers. To play at the Atrium at the main Children's Hospital (in DC), contact: Dana Morgan, 202-484-1976, or by email at damorgan@cnmc.org. For outpatient centers (multiple centers in DC, VA, and MD), contact: Heather Stemas, 202-884-3255. Outpatient Centers are generally open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SAW SERVES AT NATIONAL REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

On June 1, 2008, Jeff Silberberg of Olney, MD began hosting Live Music Sunday at NRH in the ground floor cafeteria of the National Rehabilitation Hospital, 102 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC. Showcases are being scheduled for Sunday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30 PM. Musicians interested in performing are being asked to contact Jeff Silberberg at jeffrey.silberberg@verizon.net or 301-775-6468. This activity is in conjunction with the Songwriter's Association of Washington (SAW) and SAW Serves.

GUITARS NOT GUNS

Guitars Not Guns has an ongoing need for volunteers. Classes normally run on weekdays for an hour some time between 4 & 6 pm. Not all volunteer positions require teaching guitar. If you or someone you know is able to volunteer for this very worthy cause, please contact Skip Chaples, President of the Virginia Chapter of Guitars Not Guns, at fchaples@cox.net for more details.



SAW'S MASC SPONSORS

BMI: Music Licensing
www.bmi.com

CF MARTIN & COMPANY
(The Martin Guitar
Company)
<http://www.martinguitar.com>

MARY CLIFF & Traditions
radio show on WAMU
<http://marycliff.net>

FOLK ALLIANCE
www.folk.org

Jammin' Java: Concert
Venue
www.jamminjava.com

Oasis CD Manufacturing
www.oasiscd.com

Omega Recording Studios
www.omegastudios.com

SONGWRITER'S
MARKET 2007
www.songwritersmarket.com

Taxi: The World's Leading
Independent A&R
Company
www.taxi.com



NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Friday, August 29, 2008 @ 5 p.m.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!! This newsletter will be as good as SAW members want to make it. If you have something to share, please send it in!

To make sure your item, event, member note, or classified is included in the next issue of *SAW Notes* send your information to me RIGHT AWAY. I will make sure that it gets in. But the absolute final deadline is the one listed above. Please e-mail your submissions for the next e-newsletter to Aisha Mahy at sawnotes@saw.org